

Benedictine Sisters of Boerne St. Scholastica Monastery



Annual Giving Campaign - September 2022

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” Corrie ten Boom

Dear Friends,

It has been seven months since my installation as Prioress. During this time, I have witnessed such loving support to our Benedictine Community from so many of you. Thank you for your kindness, prayers, and generosity! Despite these uncertain times in our nation and the world, your faithfulness has not wavered. Be assured that we hold you close in our thoughts and daily prayers.

I am often asked the question, “What is the future of the Benedictines in Boerne?” I assure you the Sisters’ Council and I are engaged in a long-term planning process for our community and for our Boerne property. We will remain in place at St. Scholastica Monastery, and we will continue our ministries on “The Hill”. After all, our median age is only 75, and we still have a lot of work to do!

Moving forward, care for our Sisters remains our number one priority. This is a promise we made, and it is one we will honor despite the increase in our **healthcare costs (just over \$300,00 annually)**. In late spring, COVID made its way into the monastery. Several of our Sisters and caregivers contracted the virus. Thankfully, everyone recovered, but we faced significant caregiving staff shortages, resulting in overtime costs. Due to the ongoing threat of COVID, we remain cautious and continue to take steps to protect our Sisters.

Our second priority is the maintenance and operations of our monastery. It’s been six years since we moved into the monastery, and the “newness” has worn off. **Maintenance and unexpected repairs, along with the cost of utilities, totaled \$260,000 last year.** These costs were a hardship, forcing us to dip into our savings. This year’s budget is already stretched and we’re feeling the strain!

At this time of our **Annual Giving Campaign, will you please help us?** We invite you to consider making a gift. **Your tax-deductible donation of any amount will help offset the costs for 24/7 care for our elder sisters, who devoted their lives to others. It will also help us operate and maintain St. Scholastica Monastery, which continues to serve as a Monastic model to the greater community, reflecting Benedictine values of prayer, community, hospitality, spirituality, and work.**

Gracias de todo corazón - thank you with all my heart. May God’s grace and peace be with you ~

Most sincerely,

Sister Bernadine Reyes, OSB
Prioress

Please use the enclosed envelope or make your gift online at www.boernebenedictines.org - Thank you!